GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2752
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2002
CELLULAR MOBILE SERVICE
JAYASHREE BANERJEE

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide mobile telephone facility in Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) whether this facility would also be made available in the remote rural areas where telephone facility is still not available?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SIKDAR)

(a) to (c): The following four companies have been granted licences for operation of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) in Madhya Pradesh Telecom Cirlce:

1. M/s. RPG Cellcom Limited.

2. M/s. Reliance Telecom (Private)Limited.

3. M/s. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).

4. M/s. Bharti Cellular Limited.

Out of these four companies, service has been started by the first two companies in Madhya Pradesh Telecom Circle and as per the information provided by Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) both these companies are also providing CMTS Service ir District Headquarter of Jabalpur.

BSNL has also proposed to provide CMTSservice at District Headquarter of Jabalpur and the network roll-out is expected in the next financial year. BSNL plan envisages the coverage of District Headquarters, important stations and highways which may provide incidental coverage benefits to the adjoining rural areas.

As per the terms and conditions of the CMTS Licence, an operator is required to cover 10% of District Headquarters within one year and 50% of District Headquarters within three years. The choice of District Headquarters/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/towns shall lie with the Licensee depending on their business decision. There is no requirement on the cellular operators under the licensee for mandatory coverage of rural areas.